

MINUTES OF THE
ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD
Public Forum

Approved as Amended

DATE: November 20, 2015

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm Street, (Salon B) Manchester, NH 03101

BOARD MEMBERS:

Senator Regina Birdsell ~ *Absent*
Representative Peter Schmidt
Len Gerzon, Public Member, Chairman
Robert J. Gagne, NHA AO, City, Vice-Chairman
Eric Stohl, Municipal Official, Towns <3,000
Marti Noel, NHA AO
Paul Brown, Municipal Official, Towns >3,000

Senator Bette Lasky ~ *Absent*
Representative Mark Proulx
Stephan Hamilton, NHDRA
Betsey Patten, Public Member
Jim Wheeler, Municipal Official, City ~ *Absent*
Thomas Thomson, Public Member ~ *Absent*
Loren Martin, Avitar

MEMBERS of the PUBLIC:

Mary Pinkham-Langer, NHDRA
Cathy Capron, NHDRA
David Cornell, NHDRA
Scott Dickman, NHDRA
Diane Frechette, NHDRA
Lionel MacEachern, NHDRA
Norm Bernaiche, New London
Kristen McAllister, New London

Josephine Belville, NHDRA
George Sansoucy
Jon Duhamel
Jim Rice
Angelo Marino
Bill Ingalls
Joseph Lessard
Karen Marchant

(Other members of the public may have been present but did not sign in)

Mr. Jim Rice opened the Public Forum by introducing Chairman Len Gerzon.

Introductions commenced with Chairman Gerzon, who gave a brief explanation of the public forum.

A member of the public asked if there were members missing and how many, to which Chairman Gerzon replied that not all were present but there is no required quorum for this particular meeting.

Presentation by Stephan Hamilton:

Mr. Stephan Hamilton spoke of the different committees and their different duties including the Equalization sub-committee. He also spoke of the pole and conduit value, the low appeals rate, what values should be considered in property values and Rental and Expense information as well as how the Legislature looks to the ASB to provide them with direction with sometimes inflexible deadlines.

Public Forum Questions/Discussion:

Mr. Norm Bernaiche spoke of his concern with the Legislature proposing to take away warrant power and the “watering down of tools” needed to make accurate assessments. Chairman Gerzon advised that the warrant power can be put on the task list and asked about a particular LSR. Representative Peter Schmidt encouraged the public to contact their representatives to discuss their views and input.

Mr. Bernaiche then had a question about Rental and Expense Whitepaper. Ms. Marti Noel advised of where things stand with Rental and Expense Whitepaper. Mr. Bob Gagne advised it should be called Income and Expense. Chairman Gerzon advised this has come up in the past and gave an explanation on the wording. Chairman Gerzon then stated that **agenda #2226** be inserted into the record.

Mr. George Sansoucy talked of his concern of some utilities refusing to supply towns with the PA-20 and other unreported information. Chairman Gerzon replied this will be part of the audio record and part of a future meeting; and Ms. Betsey Patten advised that information is still being collected and put together. Chairman Gerzon advised that 21:J has limitations and talked of the ASB’s duties regarding HB 547.

Ms. Kris McAllister stated that if information is not being submitted, it’s a form of tax evasion. She advised that appeals are costing municipalities a fortune and that they’re not paying their fair share and something needs to be done. Chairman Gerzon advised there are two “vehicles” for this: an ability to recommend legislation and the ability to interpret the authority the NHDRA already has in rule making and making suggestions within the rulemaking. Mr. Hamilton mentioned the question of inspection warrants and the recent change that the Legislature proposed in removing the loss of appeal rights if entry to a residential property is denied. Mr. Hamilton stated you have to see the residential property as that is how you observe the important factors that drive this value. He further advised Legislature makes the rules/determination - the last time Legislature weighed in on these issues, they felt that personal privacy was more valuable than that appeal right loss penalty.

Mr. Gagne made a motion to adjourn. Betsey Patten seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McGill
NH Department of Revenue Administration – Municipal and Property Division

Documentation relative to the Assessing Standards Board may be submitted, requested or reviewed by:

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